



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



March 16, 2007

Representative James G. Phinizy, Chairman  
Environment and Agriculture Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 303  
Concord, NH 03301

**Subject: HB 877-FN, an act relative to the state recycling program**

Dear Chairman Phinizy and Members of the Committee:

HB 877-FN seeks to amend RSA 21-1:14 to require state agencies to recycle recyclable waste materials for which markets have been identified. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill.

Under RSA 149-M:2, the General Court has declared that:

- there are environmental and economic issues pertaining to the disposal of solid waste in landfills and incinerators;
- it is important to reserve landfill and incinerator capacity for solid wastes which cannot be reduced, reused, recycled or composted;
- the disposal of recyclable materials in landfills or processing of recyclable materials in incinerators should be discouraged; and,
- the goal of the state is to achieve a 40 percent minimum weight diversion of solid waste landfilled or incinerated on a per capita basis.

Enacting a mandatory recycling program for state government is a sound policy choice because it would commit the state to leading by example in improving recycling practices. It would help conserve both natural resources and landfill capacity. As the state's environmental agency, DES has demonstrated what can be accomplished in the governmental sector when management and staff are committed to recycling. In 2006, DES employees diverted more than 51 tons of recyclable materials from landfills, including 6,626 pounds of plastic, 468 pounds of aluminum, and 93,600 pounds of paper. Other items recycled by DES include glass bottles, cardboard, copier toner cartridges, Tyvek envelopes, and rechargeable batteries.

DES believes that this bill could be more effective if it included the requirement to also recycle glass bottles and aluminum cans. Recycling aluminum saves about 95% of the energy it would take to produce aluminum from bauxite, its original source. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television, or operate a computer, for three hours. Every glass bottle recycled saves enough energy to light a 100 watt light bulb for four hours.

The Fiscal Note accompanying this bill does not take into account revenues generated through the sale of recycled materials, thus reducing the overall cost of a state recycling program. The current market rates for select recyclables include:

- \$70/ton mixed paper
- \$1,550/ton aluminum
- \$80/ton corrugated cardboard
- \$200/ton PET plastic
- \$2.25/ton glass

Currently, RSA 21-I:60, I requires the Department of Administrative Services to establish a mandatory waste reduction and recycling program for all state agencies, and establishes a special fund within the Office of the State Treasurer to receive recycling revenue to be used for a statewide recycling program for state agencies. RSA 21-I:61 requires state agencies to submit a proposed waste reduction and recycling plan to the Department of Administrative Services. This legislation was passed in 1990.

DES appreciates the opportunity to support this bill. If you have any questions regarding this letter of testimony, please do not hesitate to call me at 271-2958 or Waste Management Division Director Tony Giunta at 271-2905.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

cc: Rep. Gail Morrison  
Rep. Claudia Chase  
Rep. Jane Beaulieu  
Rep. William Tobin  
Donald S. Hill, Commissioner, DAS